AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

No claims has been amended in this Reply.

1. (Previously Amended) A transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles, comprising:

a hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from about 75 to about 88 in weight percent; and

at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from about 12 to about 25 in weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to a mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, a viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 220°C.

2. (Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles as set forth in claim 1, further comprised of the viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being 67.8 cSt at 40° C.

3.(Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles as set forth in claim 1, further comprised of the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being at 240°C.

4. (Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the

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manufacture of candles as set forth in claim 1, further comprised of the copolymer being a triblock copolymer of "Kraton® G 1652".

5. (Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles as set forth in claim 1, further comprised of the hydrocarbon oil being 83.8 weight percent and the at least one copolymer being 16.2 weight percent of the mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer.

6. (Previously Amended) A transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles, comprising:

a hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from 73 to 88 in weight percent; and

at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from 12 to 27 in weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to a mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, a viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 220°C.

7. (Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles as set forth in claim 6, further comprised of the viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being 67.8 cSt at 40° C.

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8. (Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles as set forth in claim 6, further comprised of the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being at 240°C.

9. (Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles as set forth in claim 6, further comprised of the copolymer being a triblock copolymer of "Kraton® G 1652".

10-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Amended) A transparent, elastic and free standing composition for the manufacture of candles, consisting essentially of:

a hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from 73 to 88 in weight percent; and

at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from 12 to 27 in weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to a mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, a viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 220°C.

16. (Previously Amended) The transparent, elastic and free standing composition as set forth in claim 15, wherein the hydrocarbon oil is 83.8 weight percent and the at least one copolymer is

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16.2 weight percent of the mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Amended) A free standing candle, comprising:

a hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from about 75 to about 88 in weight percent; and

at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from about 12 to about 25 in weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to a mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, a viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 220°C, the candle maintaining a free standing condition even when the candle is lit by means of a flame produced as consequence of the combustion of a candlewick that extends through the candle and projects toward outside an end of the candle.

22. (Original) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 21, further comprised of the candlewick being a cotton string imbibed in an alcoholic solution of vegetal resin.

23. (Original) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 21, further comprised of the candlewick being firmly retained in a passing hole, the passing hole being produced in the candle when the mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the copolymer is at room temperature, the passing hole

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extending through the candle in longitudinal correspondence to an axis of symmetry etending from a lower base of the candle.

24. (Previously Amended) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 21, further comprised of the candle being formed by union of a plurality of different minor portions, each of the minor portions being individually formed of the hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from about 75 to about 88 in weight percent and the at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from about 12 to about 25 weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to the mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, the viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 220°C.

25. (Original) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:

coloring essences in the mixture including the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer.

26.(Original) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:

aromatic fragrances in the mixture including the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer.

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27. (Original) The free standing candle as set froth in claim 21, further comprising:

air bubbles in the mixture including the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, the air bubbles being distributed through the candle formed by the mixture.

28. (Original) The free standing candle as set froth in claim 21, further comprising:

decorative elements, the decorative elements being provided in the mixture forming the candle so as to be visible from outside of the candle.

29. (Original) The free standing candle as set froth in claim 28, further comprised of the decorative elements being arranged in the candle so as to be placed outside a portion of the candle adjacent to the candlewick.

30. (Original) The candle as set forth in claim 21, further comprised of the hydrocarbon oil being 83.8 weight percent and the at least one copolymer being 16.2 weight percent of the mixture including the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer.

31. (Previously Amended) A free standing candle, comprising:

a hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from 73 to 88 in weight percent; and

at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from 12 to 27 in weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to a mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and

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the at least one copolymer, a viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 220°C, the candle maintaining a free standing condition even when the candle is lit by means of a flame produced as consequence of the combustion around a candlewick borne by the candle.

32. (Original) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 31, further comprised of the candlewick being a cotton string imbibed in an alcoholic solution of vegetal resin.

33. (Previously Amended) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 31, further comprised of the candlewick being firmly retained in a passing hole, the passing hole being produced in the candle when the mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the copolymer is at room temperature, the passing hole extending through the candle in longitudinal correspondence to an axis of symmetry extending from a lower base of the candle.

34. (Previously Amended) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 31, further comprised of the candle being formed by union of a plurality of different minor portions, each of the minor portions being individually formed of the hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from 73 to 88 in weight percent and the at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from 12 to 27 weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to the mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, the viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being

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greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 220°C.

35. (Original) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 31, further comprising:

coloring essences in the mixture including the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer.

36. (Original) The free standing candle as set forth in claim 31, further comprising:

aromatic fragrances in the mixture including the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer.

37. (Original) The free standing candle as set froth in claim 31, further comprising:

air bubbles in the mixture including the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, the air bubbles being distributed through the candle formed by the mixture.

38. (Original) The free standing candle as set froth in claim 31, further comprising:

decorative elements, the decorative elements being provided in the mixture forming the candle so as to be visible from outside of the candle.

39. (Original) The free standing candle as set froth in claim 38, further comprised of the decorative elements being arranged in the candle so as to be placed outside a portion of the candle adjacent to the candlewick.

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40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously added) A process of manufacturing a transparent, elastic and free standing candle body, comprising the steps of:

preparing a mixture comprising a hydrocarbon oil and at least one copolymer selected from the group consisting of triblock polymers and diblock polymers, wherein said hydrocarbon oil is in a proportion from about 12 to about 25 in weight percent, a viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil is greater than 32 cSt at 40°C, and a flash point of the hydrocarbon oil is greater than 220°C, and said at least one copolymer is in a proportion from about 12 to about 25 in weight percent;

stirring the mixture to make the mixture transparent;

pouring the mixture in a mold;

cooling the mixture in the mold to produce a candle body; and

demolding the candle body from the mold to obtain a transparent, elastic and free standing candle body.

42. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, wherein the viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil is 67.8 cSt at 40° C.

43. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, wherein the flash point of the hydrocarbon oil is at 240 °C.

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44. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, wherein the copolymer is a triblock copolymer of "Kraton® G 1652".

45. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, wherein said hydrocarbon oil is 83.8 weight percent and said at least one copolymer is 16.2 weight percent of the mixture.

46. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, wherein the stirring step is conducted at a temperature ranging from 80 °C to 160 °C.

47. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, wherein the temperature of the mixture at the pouring step is in the range from 150 °C to 160 °C to provide the clear and transparent candle body.

48. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, wherein the temperature of the mixture at the pouring step is in the range from 100 °C to 120 °C to provide the candle body having air bubbles.

49. (Previously added) The process of claim 41, further comprising the step of:

before the cooling step, placing a decorative element in the mold.

50. (Previously added) A transparent, elastic and free standing composition, comprising:

a hydrocarbon oil in a proportion of from about 75 to about 88 in weight percent; and

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at least one copolymer selected from the group of triblock polymers and diblock polymers in a proportion of from about 12 to about 25 in weight percent, the weight percent of the hydrocarbon oil and the weight percent of the at least one copolymer being in relation to a mixture of the hydrocarbon oil and the at least one copolymer, a viscosity of the hydrocarbon oil being greater than 32cSt at 40°C, with said hydrocarbon oil and said copolymer combined to provide an elastic mass that remains free standing while bearing a flame from combustion of said elastic mass.

51. (Previously added)The transparent, elastic and free standing composition of claim 50, wherein a flash point of the hydrocarbon oil is greater than 220°C.

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